GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1355
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002
NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether feasibility study of National Identity Card System has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether this effort and expenditure would overlap the project already initiated by the Central Election Commission for the issue of electoral identity card;

(d) whether the National Identity Card Project can utilize the data already in possession of CEC to major extent; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The detailed feasibility report has covered aspects relating to the creation of an identification system of one billion people, streamlining of the machinery for the registration of births and deaths at the Panchayat level and institutional as well as technological options for the creation of an integrated database of personal identities capable of being continuously updated. The Government will finalize its decision only after an in-depth examination of all relevant issues and after necessary preparations are made for launching the system, including giving legal backing to the scheme.

(c) to (e): Since the electoral identity cards issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) is not a universal system of identification based on compulsory registration of Indian citizens or registrations of birth and deaths, the proposal of issue of Multipurpose National Identity Cards to the Indian citizens cannot be linked with it. However, the data base already in possession of the ECI would be taken into account while working out the modalities of implementation of the scheme.